

Atty. Docket N PALM.0933

Patent 11 5,153

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 11-29 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Claims 30-41 have been added. No claims have been allowed.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 and 5-7 respectively of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,124. Claims 11-14 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 1-10 and 15-29 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,124. Claims 15-29 have been cancelled. Applicants are willing to provide a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1-10 prior to allowance of the claims when and if the obviousness-type double patenting is the only rejection remaining. Applicants request that the amended claims first be considered by the Examiner.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10, 15-24, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,859,970 to Pleso (hereinafter "Pleso"). Pleso teaches a portable computer device including an electrical connector. Pleso further teaches a docking station with a corresponding electrical connector that is coupled to a system backbone. Upon detecting power received by the portable device from the docking station, the portable device automatically switches the LAN controller within the device from a low-power consumption sleep mode to an active mode. (column 2, lines 43-53). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Pleso.

Claim 1 recites: coupling a signal line accessible through an outlet of the portable computing device to a communication device; detecting a signal on the signal line to determine whether the communication device is actively connected to a portable computing device; and suspending execution of at least a portion of a program, the portion of the program reducing power consumption of the portable computing device. Applicants

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submit that Pleso teaches away from the method of claim 1. Specifically, Pleso is limited to causing the portable device to enter an active mode upon detecting power received by the portable device from a docking station. This is distinct from suspending execution of at least a part of a program. Pleso is limited to always causing an action to happen (the portable device enters an active mode) when power from the docking station is detected. On the other hand, the claimed method causes an action not to occur; that is execution of at least a portion of a program is suspended. Pleso does not disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1, such as suspending execution of at least a portion of a program. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Pleso.

Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and include further limitations thereon. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-10 are not anticipated by Pleso for the same reasons given with reference to claim 1.

Claims 5-24 and 29 have been cancelled herein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

New claims

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30-41 are allowable over the prior art. Claims 30-35 depend from claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that these dependent claims are allowable as depending from an allowable claim. However, the subject matter of claims 30-35 is not disclosed or taught by Pleso. For example, Pleso fails to disclose determining a type of the communication device as claimed. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 30-35 are allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 36 includes automatically determining whether an accessory device is communicatively coupled to the portable computing device; and automatically determining a type of accessory device communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device. Pleso lack at least the limitation of automatically determining a type of accessory device communicatively device coupled to the portable computing device. Therefore, claim 36 and its dependent claims 37-41 are allowable over the prior art.

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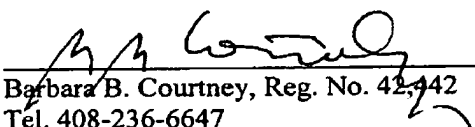
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 30-41 are in condition for allowance. The allowance of the claims is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any issues that remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the claims.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge deposit account 501914 for any underpayments in connection with this Office Action response.

Respectfully submitted,
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Information Disclosure Statement
Application No. 10/696,153

Throughout the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees, including any required extension of time fees, and credit all overpayments to deposit account 50-1914. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 12/20/2004




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